

Lake Superior Fisheries Management Plan

Advisory Panel Meeting 6 March 5, 2018



Agenda

Introduction/Overview

Review/approve previous meetings minutes

Sturgeon Plan

Goal 4

Objectives

Goal 5

Objectives

Upcoming meetings

Sturgeon Management Plan Public Meeting

Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College

Ashland, WI

March 5, 2018

DNRSturgeonPlan@wisconsin.gov





Public Meeting Schedule 2018

- **Tuesday, Feb. 20 - Eau Claire**, 6:30 p.m. DNR Eau Claire Service Center
- **Tuesday, Feb. 20 - Fitchburg**, 6:30 p.m. DNR Fitchburg Service Center
- **Tuesday, Feb. 20 - Webster**, 6:30 p.m. Larsen Family Public Library
- **Wednesday, Feb. 21 - La Crosse**, 6:30 p.m. DNR La Crosse Service Center
- **Wednesday, Feb. 21 - Oshkosh**, 6:30 p.m. Coughlin Building
- **Wednesday, Feb. 21 - Park Falls**, 6 p.m. Public Library
- **Tuesday, March 5 - Ashland**, 6 p.m. Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College
- **Tuesday, March 6 - Oconto**, 6 p.m., Oconto City Hall





Public Meeting Goals

1. Gather public comments

- How would you like to see sturgeon managed by the DNR into the future?

2. Solicit volunteers for advisory committee

- How would you like to see sturgeon management and/or regulations changed in the state?

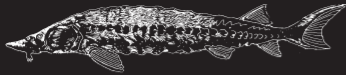




Work with DNR staff to develop the framework for a new Sturgeon Plan

- Visit our website: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Fishing/sturgeon/SturgeonManagementPlan.html>
- Send us comments to our dedicated email address:
DNRSturgeonPlan@wisconsin.gov
- Join the Gov Delivery list (by providing your email address on the sign up sheet today) or following the link on our website

Comment Card



The Future of Sturgeon Management in Wisconsin



- 1 Do you take part in the annual sturgeon spear fishery on the Winnebago System? ____ Yes ____ No
- 2 Do you hook and line fish for lake sturgeon in Wisconsin? ____ Yes ____ No
If so, on what water(s)? _____
- 3 Do you participate in non-fishing related sturgeon activities such as sturgeon watching during spawning, sturgeon guard, adopt a sturgeon, etc? If so, please list: _____

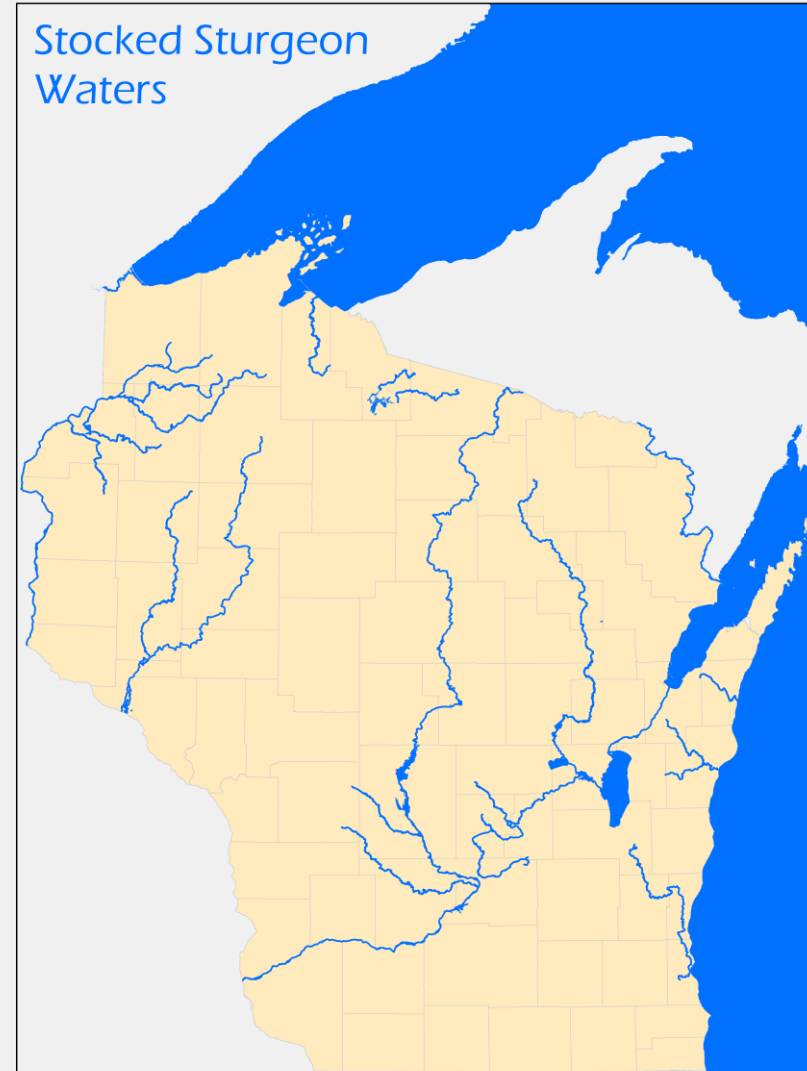
- 4 What do you think are the most important issues related to sturgeon? _____

Agenda

- History of sturgeon management in Wisconsin
- Brief overview of plan implementation since 2000
- Next steps; more info on Advisory Committee
- Local sturgeon information



Lake Sturgeon Distribution in Wisconsin



History

- Lake Sturgeon Management Plan (2000)
- Identified issues of concern:
 - lack of biological information
 - loss of habitat
 - protection from overharvest (legal and illegal)
 - best genetic practices
 - developing robust public engagement process

Wisconsin's Lake Sturgeon Management Plan



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Bureau of Fisheries Management and Habitat Protection

October 2000

Plan Structure

Plan objectives were created within the following categories:

- Sturgeon Population/Life History Information Needs
- Habitat Protection and Enhancement
- Genetics & Propagation, Transfers and Reintroductions
- Harvest and Fisheries Information Needs



Plan Structure (cont.)



- Population Densities
- Regulations and Enforcement
- Public Input and Involvement
- Commercialization, Privatization and Scientific Use of Sturgeon Resources
- Management Plans

Review of 2000 Management Plan

- In 2017, the Statewide Sturgeon Management Team (members from DNR, GLIFWC, and Conservation Congress) embarked on a review of previous plan



Goals:

- review work that has been done since 2000
- identify management objectives that are still relevant that will be included in new plan

Since the last plan...

- Majority of the management recommendations from the 2000 plan were implemented, including:
 - developing standardized collection techniques
 - reviewing stocking and reintroduction proposals to ensure genetic integrity
 - creation of a separate fee for hook and line fisheries



Since the last plan...

- Several populations of lake sturgeon have been re-introduced across the state, and stocking success is being evaluated
- Priority waters for assessment and rehabilitation were reviewed and new lists created



Since the last plan...

- Various habitat enhancement projects have been undertaken
- Agencies and stakeholders continue to work together on sturgeon research and habitat projects



Ongoing Research

- Movement/Habitat Use/Homing Behaviors
- Entrainment
- Genetics



Missing from the last plan...



Shovelnose Sturgeon



What's Next: Timeline

Late 2017 – Management Team reviews 2000 plan

Early 2018 – Host public meetings; solicit comments from public and partner stakeholders; form Advisory Committee

Mid 2018 – convene Advisory Committee meetings

Mid-Late 2018 – Draft new management plan





What's Next: Timeline (cont.)



Early 2019 – Presentation of new plan to DNR Policy Team and Advisory Committee

Summer 2019 – Release of draft management plan and public meetings

Late 2019/2020 – incorporation of comments and present plan to DNR Policy Team and then Natural Resource Board

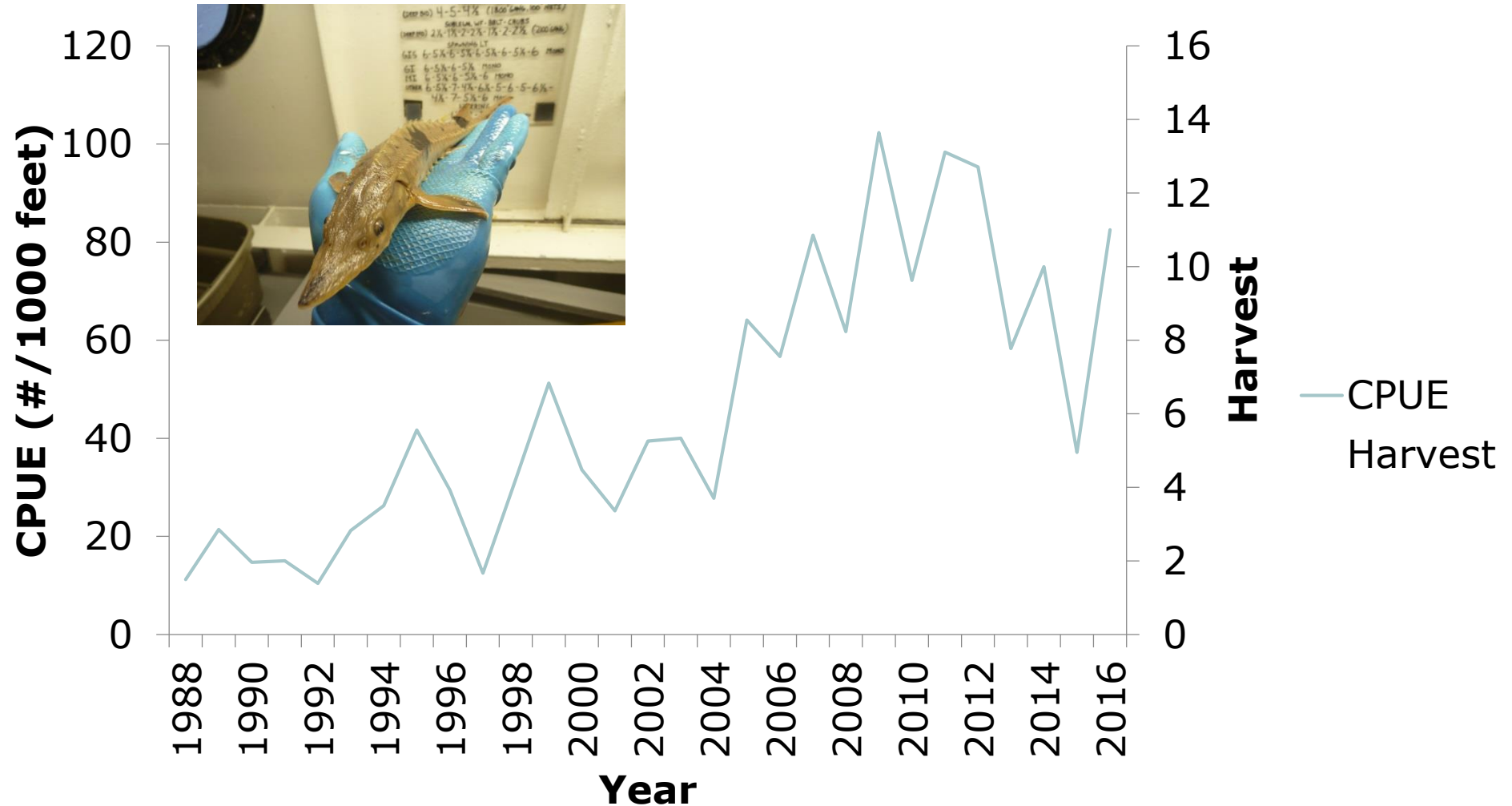
Advisory Committee

To be formed early this year; representatives from public, stakeholder groups, agencies, and tribes will be welcomed to join this committee

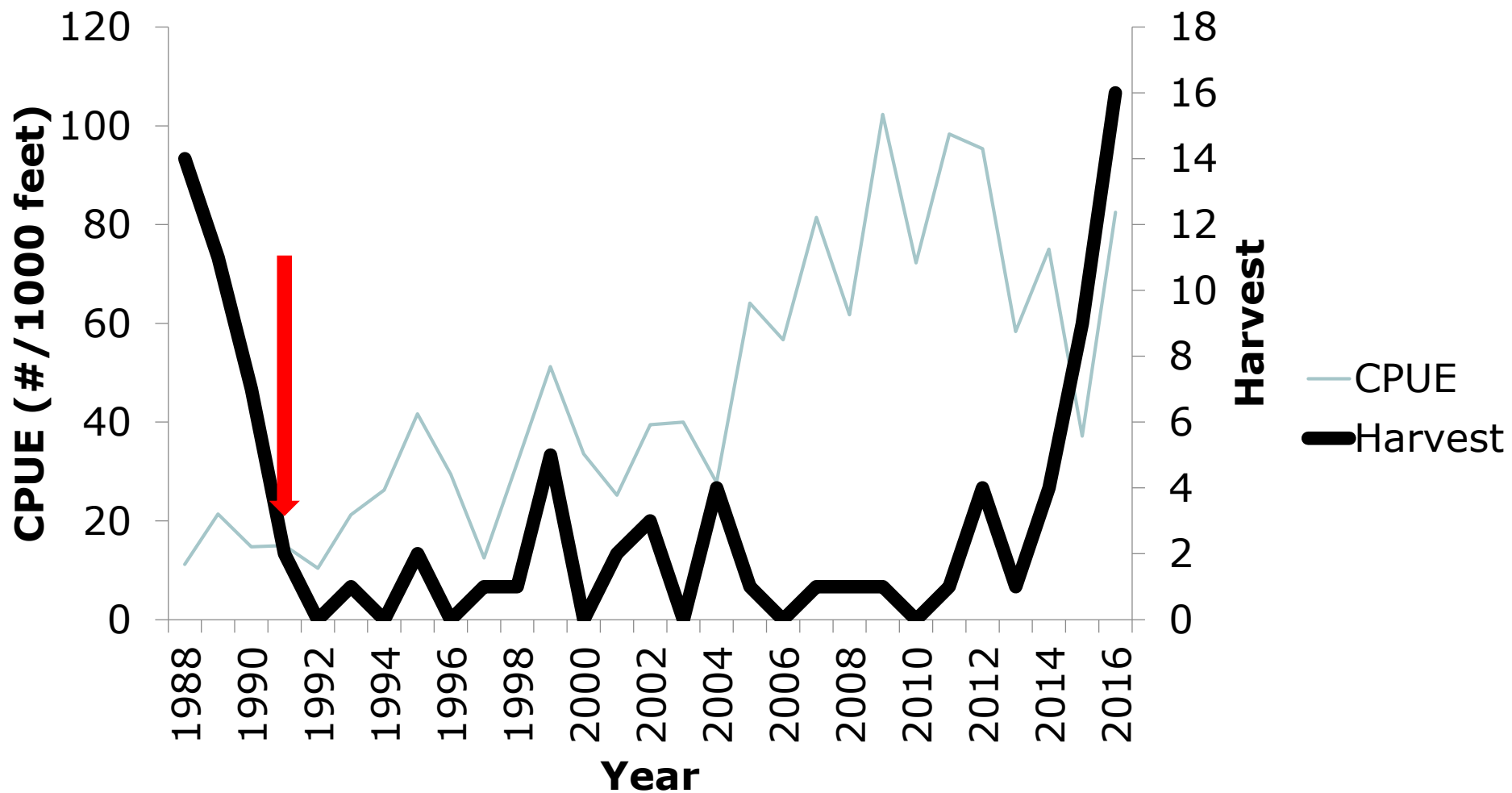


Send email to DNRSturgeonPlan@wisconsin.gov to self-nominate

Sturgeon assessment



Sturgeon assessment





Sturgeon

- Population has increased since the change from 40" min size limit to current 50"
- Anglers have increased harvest and appear to be more successful
 - This year there will be an advisory question at WCC meetings in April on a potential regulation change (min size increase to 60")



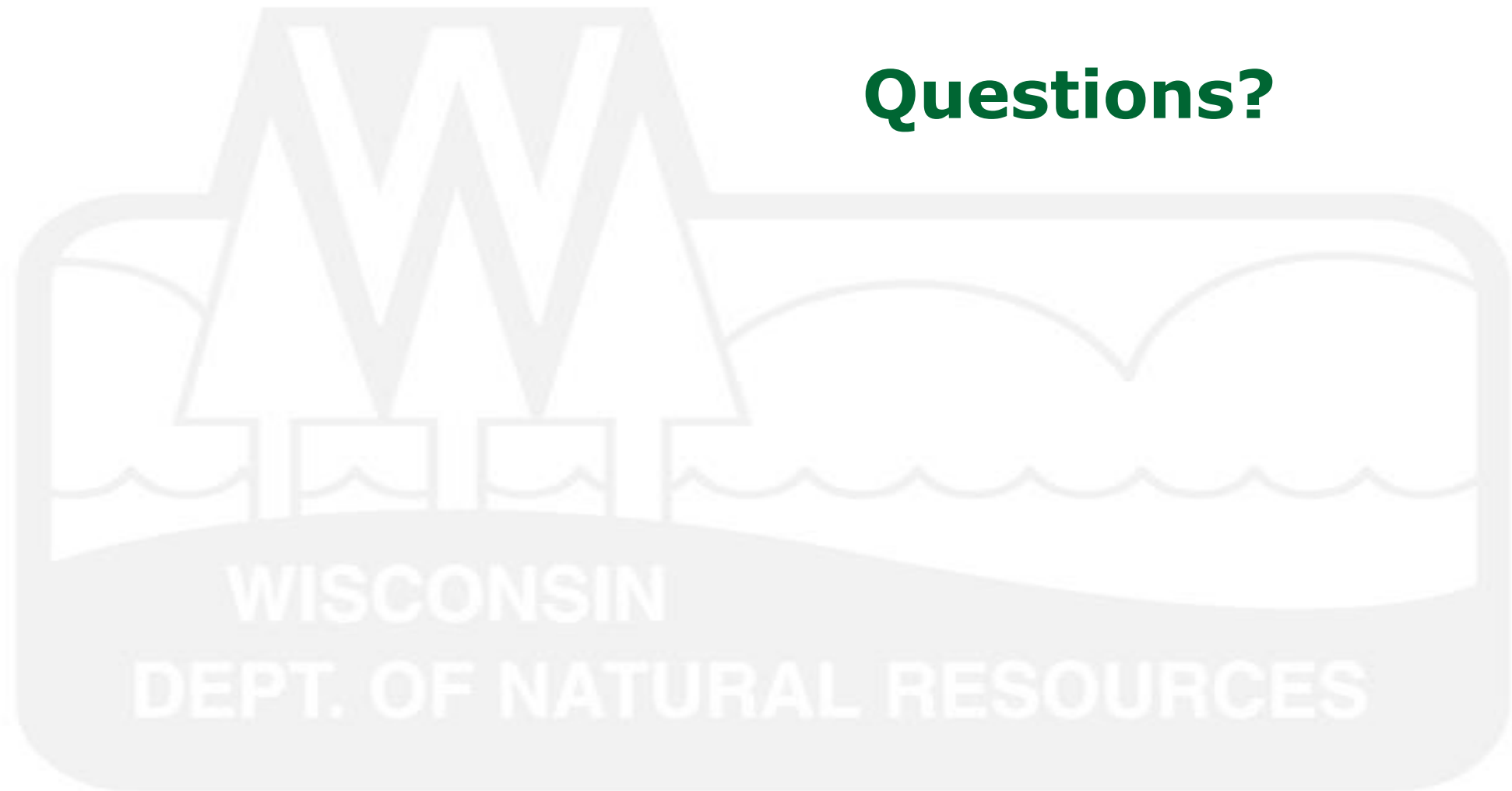
Are they in



good hands?



Questions?





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Sturgeon Plan

Goal 4

- Objectives

Goal 5

- Objectives

Upcoming meetings

Goal 4

Develop, evaluate, and implement strategies to maximize the resilience of Lake Superior fisheries through the control, management, and mitigation of future threats.

Objectives Goal 4

Develop, evaluate, and implement strategies to control, manage, and cope with invasive species, as well as certain nuisance species.

Develop, evaluate, and implement strategies to improve resilience of Lake Superior to climate variability, including extreme weather events.

Develop partnerships to ensure a proactive approach to identify, detect, and communicate risk related to emerging Chemicals of Mutual Concern.

Objectives Goal 4 cont.

Develop, evaluate, and implement strategies to control, manage, and cope with invasive species, as well as certain nuisance species.

Objectives Goal 4 cont.

Develop, evaluate, and implement strategies to improve resilience of Lake Superior to climate variability, including extreme weather events.

Objectives Goal 4 cont.

Develop partnerships to ensure a proactive approach to identify, detect, and communicate risk related to emerging Chemicals of Mutual Concern.

Goal 5

Develop, evaluate, and implement strategies to improve the social value of Lake Superior fisheries

Objectives Goal 5

Develop, and evaluate, and implement strategies to effectively communicate to internal and external partners.

Enhance tributary, shore, and near-shore fishing opportunities.

Develop, evaluate, and incorporate economic metrics into assessment of management alternatives.

Identify strategies to coordinate with stakeholders to improve Lake Superior fisheries.

Objectives Goal 5

Develop, and evaluate, and implement strategies to effectively communicate to internal and external partners.

Objectives Goal 5

Enhance tributary, shore, and near-shore fishing opportunities.

Objectives Goal 5

Develop, evaluate, and incorporate economic metrics into assessment of management alternatives.

Objectives Goal 5

Identify strategies to coordinate with stakeholders to improve Lake Superior fisheries.

Upcoming meetings

April 4, 2018

Next steps: April 4 Meeting

- Visit website for more information:
 - Search for “Lake Superior Fisheries Management” on WDNR website to find link for “Lake Superior Fisheries Management Plan”
- Collect initial comments via:
 - Mail Brad Ray, 141 S. Third Street, Bayfield, WI 54814
 - Email (dnrlakesuperiorplan@wisconsin.gov)